10 Days of al-Karāmah

Project booklet

1439 / 2018

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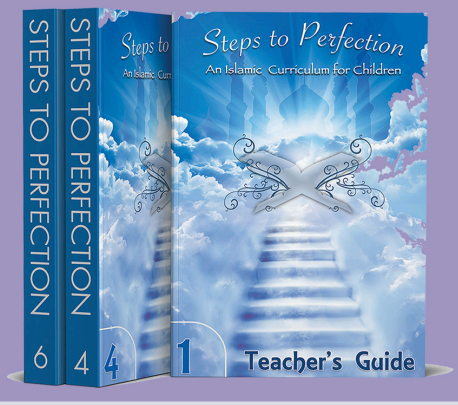

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِندَ اللَّـهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ

Surely, the most honorable of you in the sight of Allah is the most God-conscious among you. (49:13)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Salāmun ʿAlaykum!

Alḥamdulillah, we have recently completed the blessed month of Shahr Ramaḍān and will soon enter the month of Muḥarram. But we should always be looking to charge our spiritual batteries throughout the year. Therefore, this year we would like to introduce a project booklet for the first ten days of Dhul Qaʿdah, called *The Ten Days of al-Karāmah*. These ten days are celebrated with the *wilādāt* of two blessed personalities: Imām ʿAlī ar-Riḍā (A) (11th Dhul Qaʿdah), and his sister Sayyidah Fāṭimah al-Maʿṣūmah (1st Dhul Qaʿdah).

Al-Karāmah is a very high level of connection to Allāh that one can reach. We can understand *Karāmah* as honor, dignity, and kindness that is achieved through *taqwa*, God consciousness. This level of human spirituality is reached through sincerity and a conscious effort to achieve nearness to Allah.

Thus, the purpose of the ten days of *al-Karāmah* is to establish a strong connection to the *fuyuḍāt ilāhi* (blessings of Allah) and the blessed personalities who have reached this level.

One of the personalities we remember during this week, Sayyidah Maʿṣūmah, is a prime example of one who has reached this lofty status. She dedicated her entire life striving for this rank, and was thus bestowed the title of *Karīmah* by the Ahl al-Bayt (A).

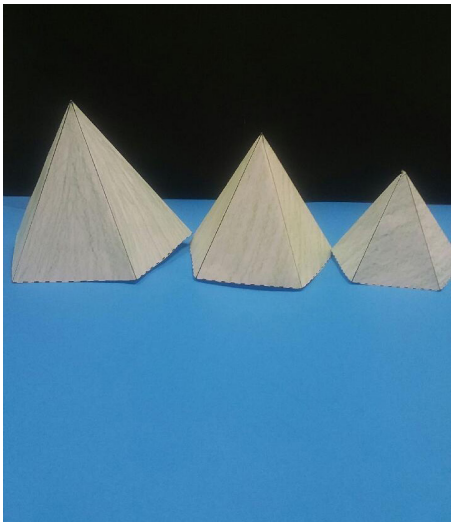
If we look closely at the life of Sayyidah Maʿṣūmah, we find that she was thirsty for attaining knowledge and the teachings of Allāh. In turn, Allāh made her final resting place one of the centers of knowledge. Her legacy lives on in Qom, which is now a hub of knowledge. Seekers of knowledge from all over the world flock to Qom, a city that houses thousands of scholars and institutions, in pursuit of the highest level of knowledge. And consequently, many of these scholars travel the world to spread this knowledge and its blessings.

Sayyidah Maʿsūmah was the door to *Imāmat*, and because both hers and Imām ʿAlī ar-Riḍā birthdays fall in the first ten days of Dhul Qaʿdah, we take this opportunity to understand and celebrate the ten days of *al-Karāmah*.

We pray that through the lessons of this booklet, which focus on *Karāmah* and education, we are able to achieve high levels of *ikhlāṣ* (sincerity), *Karāmah* (honor), and *ʿizzah* (dignity), inshāAllāh.

JazākAllāh and Best Wishes,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)
Resident ʿĀlim of SABA Islamic Center

The Meaning of Karāmah



Objective: Students will learn the meaning of Karamah

Suggested Ages: +5

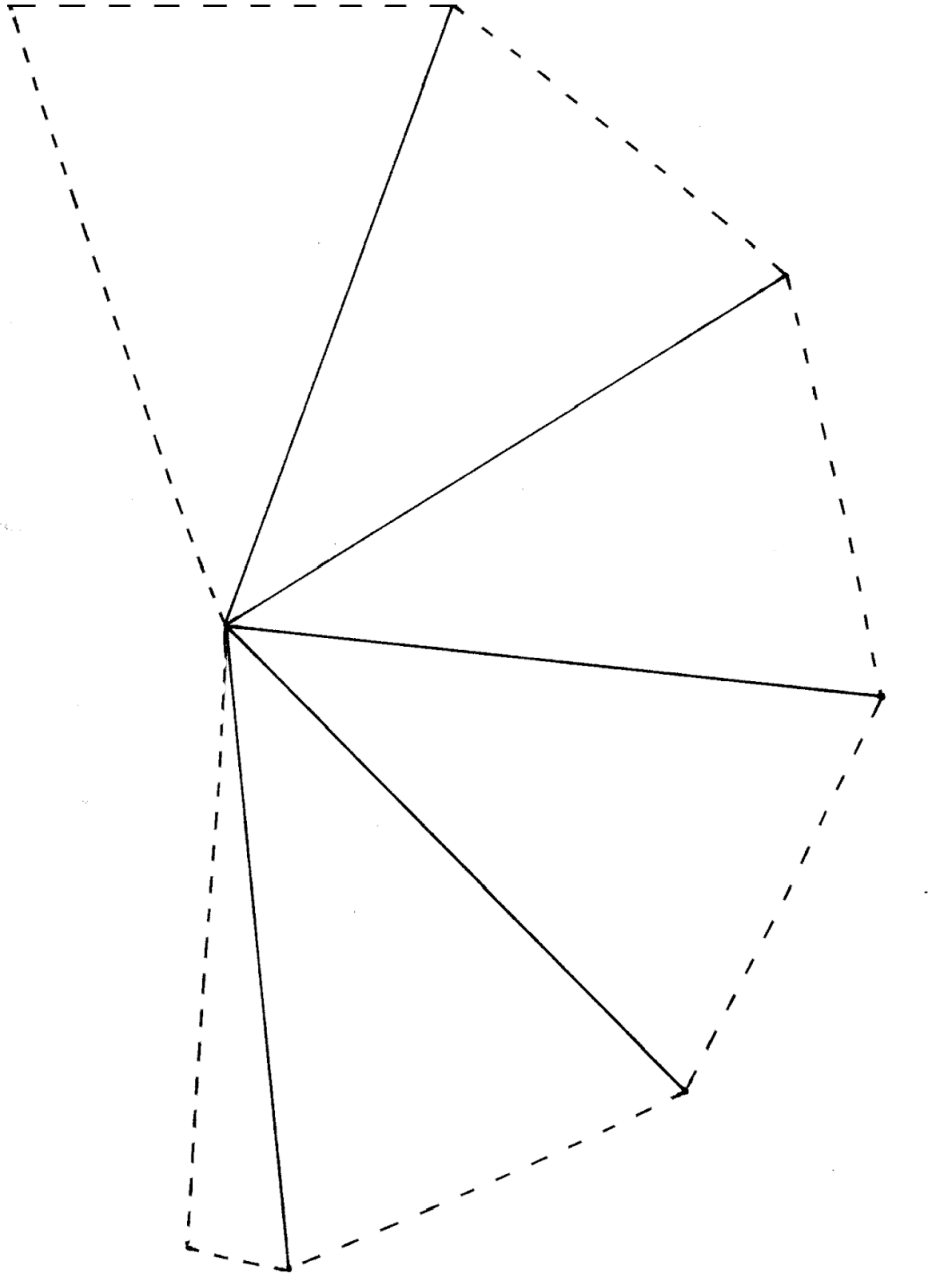
Time: 45 minutes

Materials:

- Mountains templates (printed on heavy paper or cardstock)
- Coloring pencils
- Scissors
- Glue or Tape

Procedure:

1. **SAY:** Salaamun alaikum, everyone! What is the tallest mountain on land in the world? (Wait for responses)
2. **SAY:** Correct! The highest mountain on land is Mt. Everest. As you may know many people from all over the world try to climb to the top of Mt. Everest every year. Why do you think people want to climb to the top of the tallest mountain? (Wait for responses)
3. **SAY:** Great guesses. Many people have different reasons for trying to climb Mt. Everest. But there are many who climb it because they find it to be the ultimate challenge, the best accomplishment a climber can have in making it to the top of the tallest mountain. What is the ultimate challenge for us in this world and dunya? What is the highest spiritual place we can reach in our life? (Wait for responses)
4. **SAY:** Good guesses! Let's take a look at part of an ayah from the Holy Quran to see what Allah defines as the highest rank of belief.
5. **NARRATE:** إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِندَ اللَّـهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّـهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ "Indeed The Noblest of you in the sight of Allah is the most God-conscious among you. Indeed Allah is the All-knowing, All-aware." (49:13)
6. **SAY:** According to this ayah what is the highest spiritual position a believer can achieve? (Wait for responses)
7. **SAY:** Great responses. Those people who are God-conscious, meaning they are always aware of Allah and do everything for the sake of Allah, will reach the high spiritual position of Karamah. Karamah can be defined as a combination of honor, dignity, and kindness along with a state of God-consciousness. Can someone define God-consciousness for me? (Wait for responses)
8. **SAY:** Excellent guesses. Someone who is God-conscious is aware of Allah at all times and measures his or her movement, choices, emotions and everything according to Allah's wishes. There are many levels of God-consciousness and people with God-consciousness or taqwa can then reach Karamah. How can we become God-conscious and reach Karamah?(Wait for responses)
9. **SAY:** Just like mountain climbers, we can work our way up to the highest place in the eyes of Allah. We are all capable of achieving Karamah. This requires a lot of focus on Allah and our relationship with Him, and in return we can reach the highest levels of Jannah, inshaAllah! Today we will make a special project to help us remember that reaching Allah is a journey that has many levels.
10. At this time hand out the mountain templates. **There are three different sizes. Each child should have a small, medium, and large mountain template.**
11. Have the children color and decorate their mountains.
12. At this time children may also write on their mountains different goals they have for becoming better muslims and for becoming closer to Allah and Ahlul Bayt, inshaAllah
13. Next have them fold along all of the seams of the mountain. The narrowest panel of the mountain templates is the joining tab.
14. Have the children apply glue to the joining tab and glue the tab to the back of the opposite panel so that the flat open template forms into a 3D pyramid shape.
15. The top of the tallest mountain should remind children of the highest possible level of believe and nearness to Allah.



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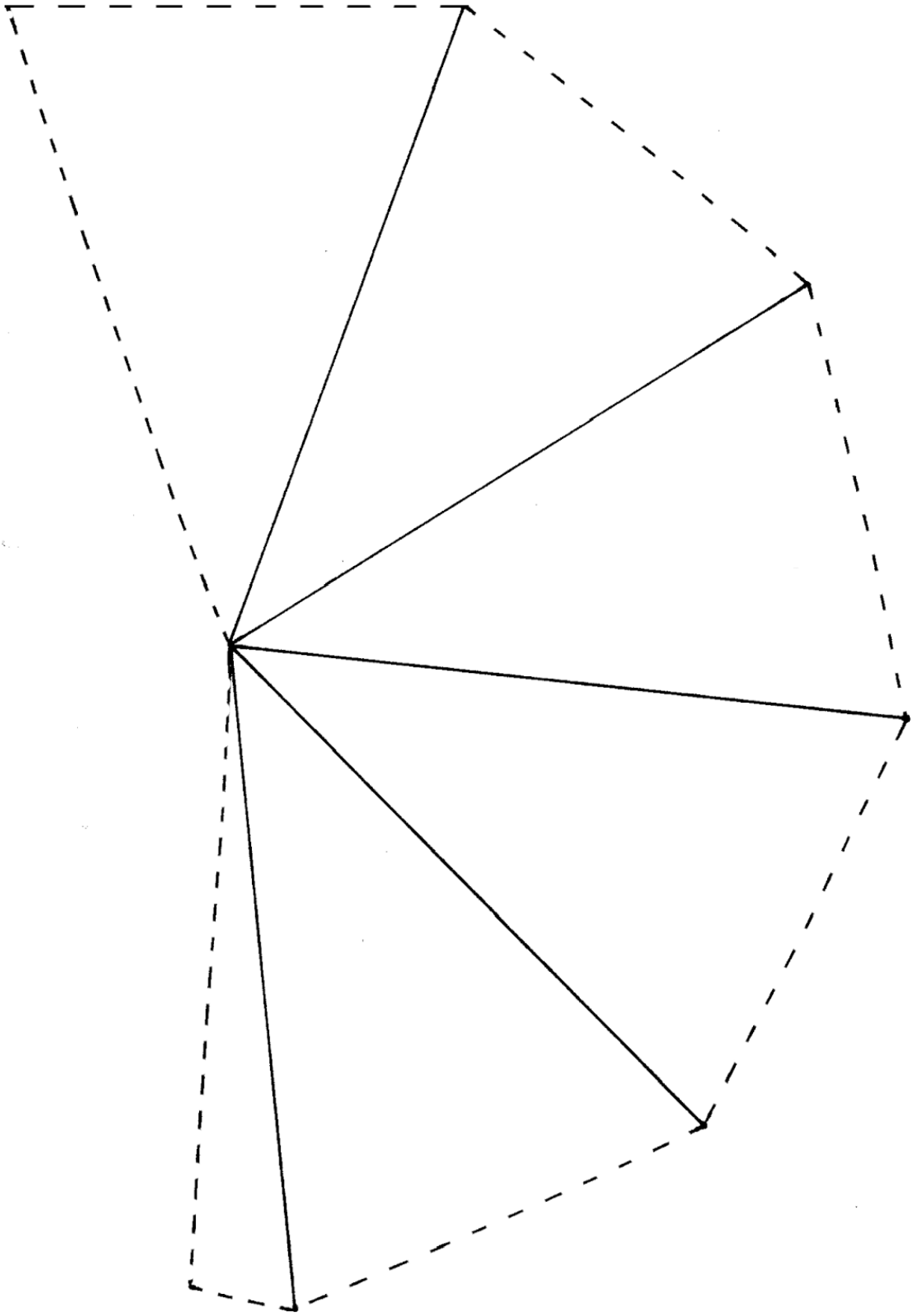

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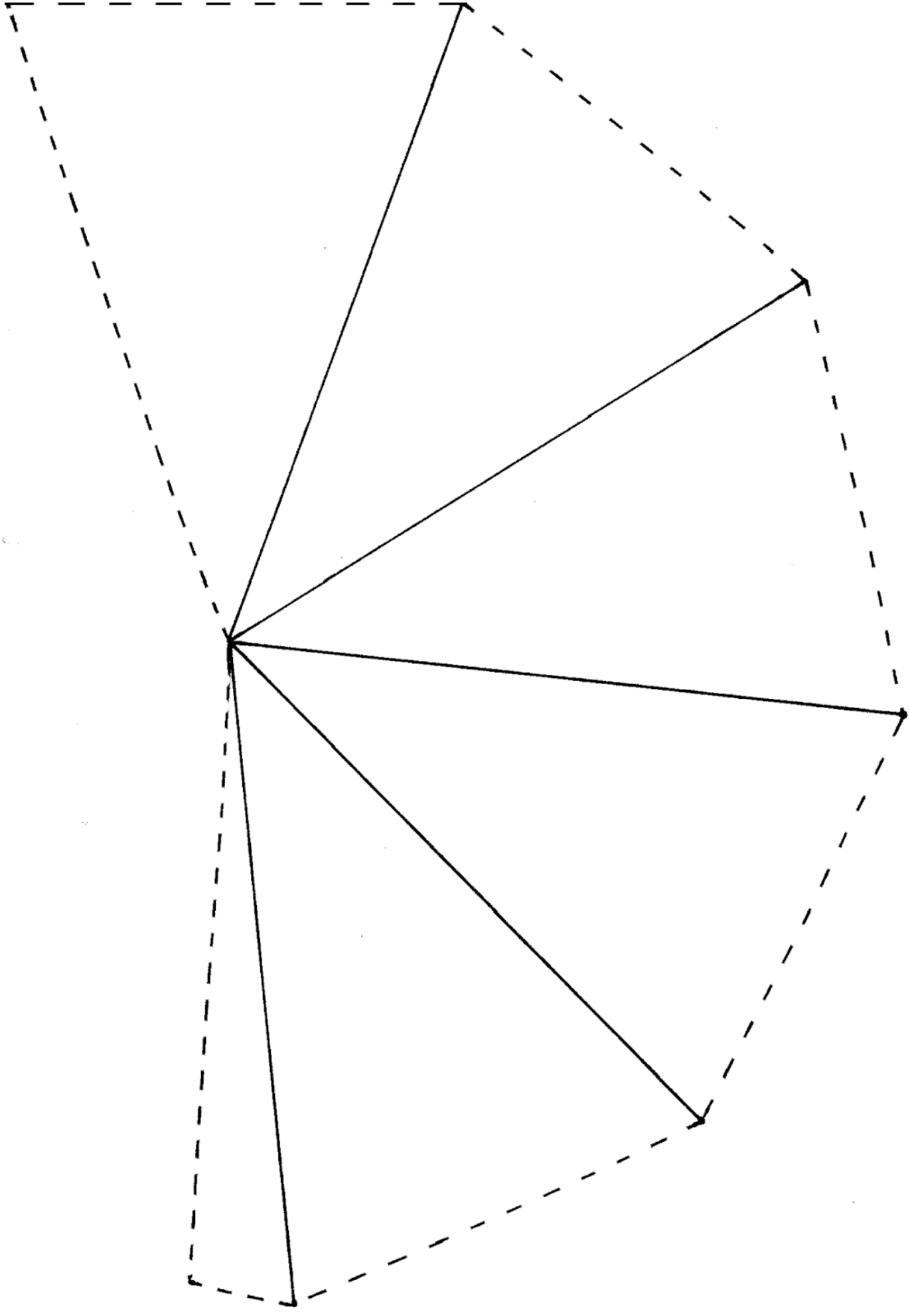

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Hadhrat Ma'sooma: Loyal to the Imam of her time

Objective: Students will be introduced to the personality of Hadhrat Ma'sooma, the sister of our 8th imam, Imam Ridha (A)

Suggested Ages: +5

Time: 45 Minutes

Materials:

- Ladder templates (optional) or construction paper cut in the same way as the ladder templates
- Tape
- Markers/crayons
- Scissors
- Note cards or Post-its

Procedure:

1. **SAY:** Salaamun alaikum, everyone. Welcome to another special program! Who can tell me who is the Imam of our time? (Wait for responses)
2. **SAY:** Yes, Imam Mahdi (AJ) is the Imam of our time. And do we have a duty to follow our Imam (AJ) and be the good Muslims that he would be proud of? (Wait for responses)
3. **SAY:** MashaAllah, good responses. We all have a duty to follow the Imam of our time. When our 8th Imam, Imam Ridha (A), was the Imam of the time, his sister was one of his loyal followers. Does anyone know who was the 8th Imam's sister? (Wait for responses)
4. **SAY:** The sister of Imam Rida (A) achieved a high status. Does anyone remember who Allah considers the highest level of believers? (Wait for responses)
5. **SAY:** Good! The highest level of believers are those who have achieved the status of Karāmah because they are God-conscious. Hadhrat Ma'sooma is an excellent example of Karāmah, she was pious and learned and followed the example of the Imam of her time. One of the titles of Hadhrat Ma'sooma, given to her by the Ahlul Bayt, was Kareemah. What will following the Ahlul Bayt and the Imam (AJ) of our time do for us? (Wait for responses)
6. **SAY:** Many great responses. We should follow the example of the Imam (AJ) and all of the Ahlul Bayt in good akhlaq and worship. In this way we can climb up to a higher place of belief and inshaAllah we may reach the level of Karāmah. Today we will make a special project to help us remember to follow our Imam (AJ) so that we may reach a level of piety and God-consciousness, inshaAllah.
7. At the time pull out the ladder templates. You can either use the ladder template or follow the design of the template to make your own ladder pieces out of construction paper for something more colorful.
8. The longer strips of paper will be the legs of the ladder. And the shorter strips of paper will be the steps of the ladder.
9. The children can decorate different pieces of the ladder with their names, hearts, and anything else that they want to share with the Imam (AJ) to express their love and devotion.
10. Once the pieces of the ladder are ready, tape together the ladder on a wall or on a poster board affixed to the wall. The ladder can be as long or short as suites the size of your class.
11. Next hand out the note cards or post-its.
12. At the time the children should write their letters of prayers, commitment, love, wishes, requests for help that they want to share with our Imam (AJ).
13. Assist the children in affixing their notes to the Imam (AJ) onto the legs and steps of the ladder.

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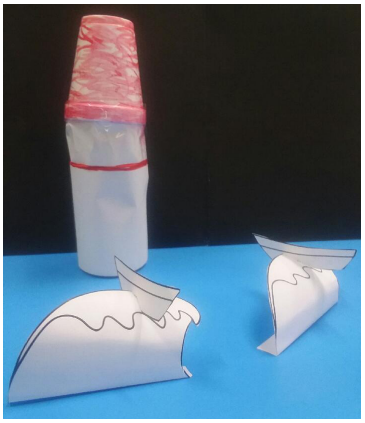
Imam Ridha (A): Finding Safety in Allah



Objective: Children will learn about Imam Ridha (A) and his example of facing difficulties in our life

Suggested Ages: +5

Time: 45 minutes

Materials:

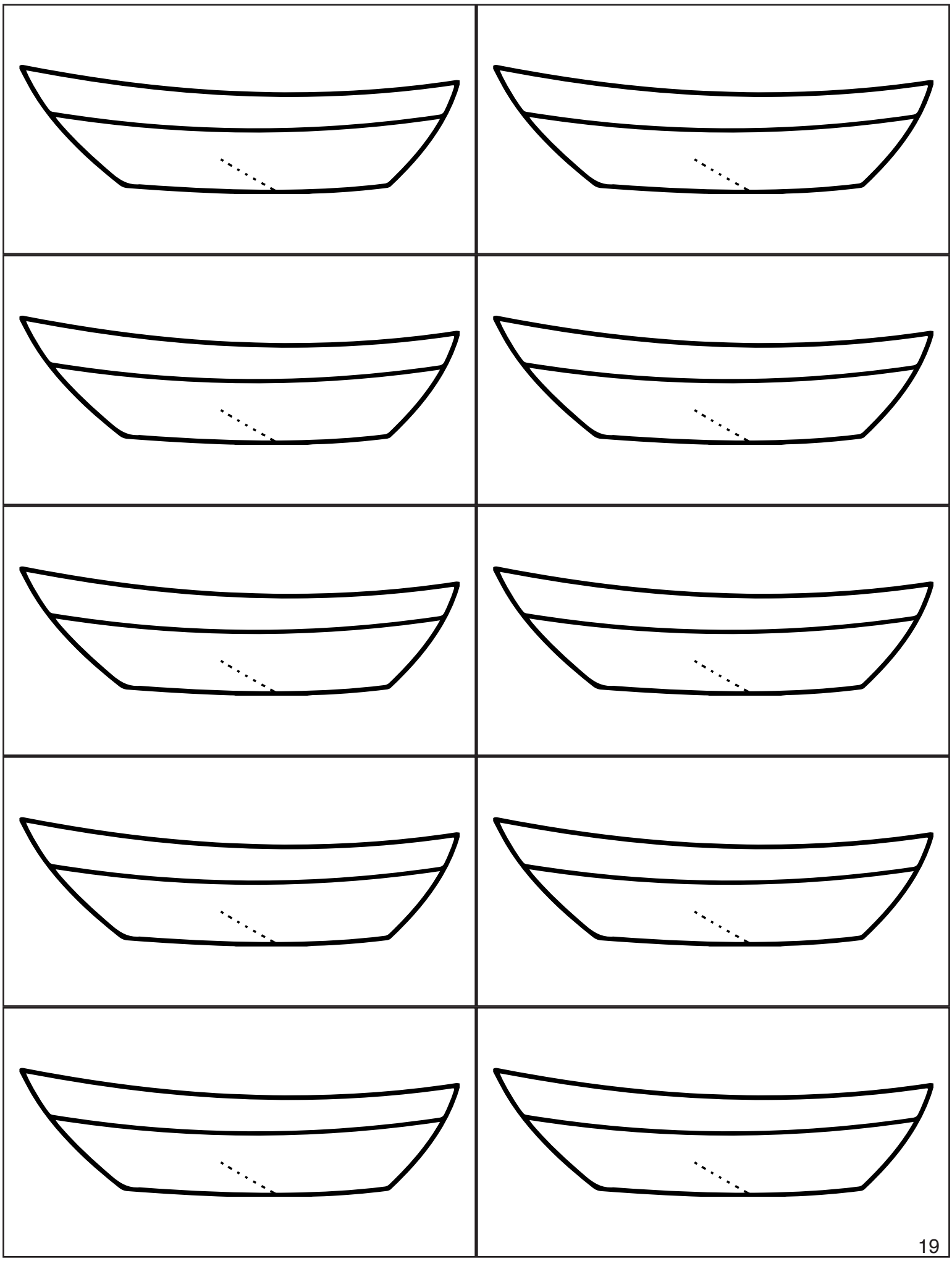
- Wave template (printed on cardstock or heavy paper)
- Boat template (printed on cardstock or heavy paper)
- Styrofoam Cup
- Water bottle
- Blue poster board (to represent a body of water)
- Scissors
- Construction paper or colored printing paper
- Markers
- Tape

Procedure:

1. **SAY:** Salaamun alaikum, everyone. Today we will be talking about our 8th Imam (A). Who is our 8th Imam (A)? (Wait for responses)
2. **SAY:** Our 8th Imam is Imam Ridha (A). Imam Ridha (A), like many of our Ahlul Bayt, faced many hardships from people who were against Islam. Which Imam do we remember the most because of his hardships? (Wait for responses)
3. **SAY:** Yes. Every year we remember Imam Husain (A) and the hardships he faced in Karbala. But all of our Imams have shown us that following the right path means hard work, persistence, striving for better things, and overcoming difficulties. Who can we turn to in our difficult times? (Wait for responses)
4. **SAY:** Yes! We can always turn to Allah for help and safety. Let us look at a hadith from Imam Ridha (A).
5. **NARRATE:** "I heard my father Musa b. Ja'far (a) say that I heard my father Ja'far b. Muhammad (a) say that I heard my father Muhammad b. 'Ali (a) say that I heard my father 'Ali b. al-Husayn (a) say that I heard my father Husayn b. 'Ali (a) say that I heard my father Amir al-Mu'minin 'Ali b. Abi Talib (a) say that I heard Allah's Messenger (s) say that I heard Jibraeel say that I heard Allah say that 'the sentence 'La Illaaha Illallaah' is my fortress, so whoever enters my fortress will be safe from my punishment.'"
6. **SAY:** Who can translate “La Illaaha Illallaah” for me? (Wait for responses)
7. **SAY:** Yes, it means: “There is no god but Allah.” In this hadith, Imam Ridha (A) and all of our Ahlul Bayt are telling us that as long as we remember Allah, He will protect us and inshaAllah give us the strength to always do that which will make Him happy. Today we will make a project that will teach us to follow the light of Allah, to help us have courage and strength in our journey to Him, inshaAllah. The light of guidance that Allah has give us is the Quran and the Ahlul Bayt.
8. **It is recommended that the teacher or a volunteer prepare the lighthouse and poster board beforehand**
9. To construct the lighthouse: take your water bottle and tape the short edge of a sheet of paper to the length of the water bottle.
10. Wrap the paper around the water bottle and then tape it shut.
11. Cut off the excess paper around the rounded top of the water bottle.
12. Then place the cup upside-down over the top of the water bottle. You can color the cup before placing it on top. Then tape the cup to the body of the water bottle

13. Take the blue poster board and tape the lighthouse to the posterboard. You can tape it on anywhere your wish.

14. Hand out the wave template. Each child should be handed one wave. Have them cut out the wave with the tab at the bottom. **Do not cut off the tabs you will need this to attach the waves to the poster boards.**
15. The children color their wave and write on the wave one thing that they are finding challenging that they hope to overcome and persevere
16. Now have the children gently curl their wave to look like a real wave and fold the tab at the bottom of the wave
17. Next help the children snip along the dotted line in the center of the wave
18. Now hand out the boat template. Each child should be given one boat. Have the children cut out their boats
19. The children can decorate their boats and then write on them their prayers to Allah for help in persevering in their challenges and being brave
20. Then assist the children in snipping the dotted line on the boat
21. The children should then slip the snip of their boat into the snip of their wave
22. Finally assist all of the children in affixing their wave and boat onto the poster board such that the waves are bend in the direction of the lighthouse and the boats appear to be following the light of Allah.



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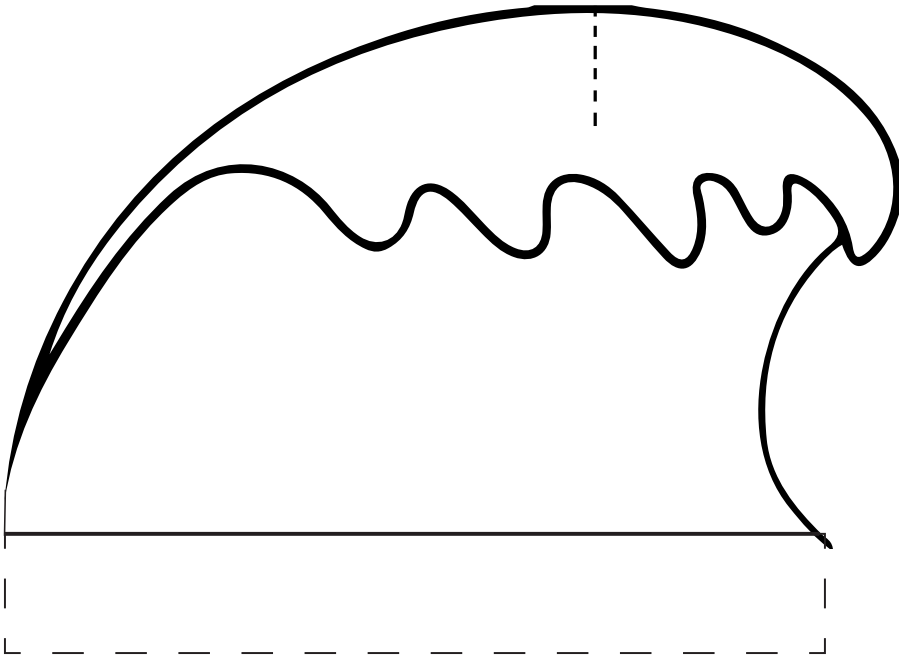

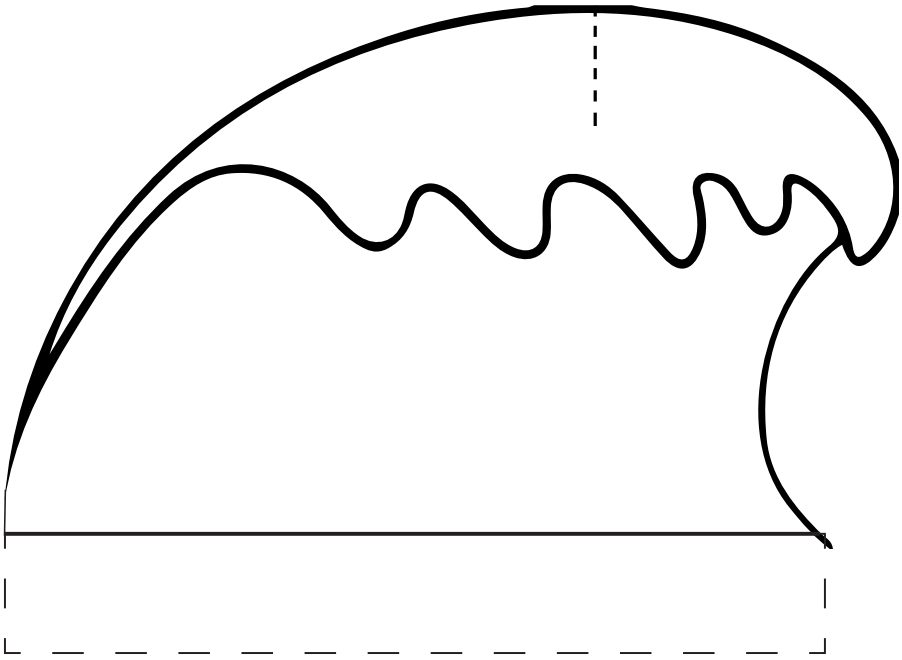

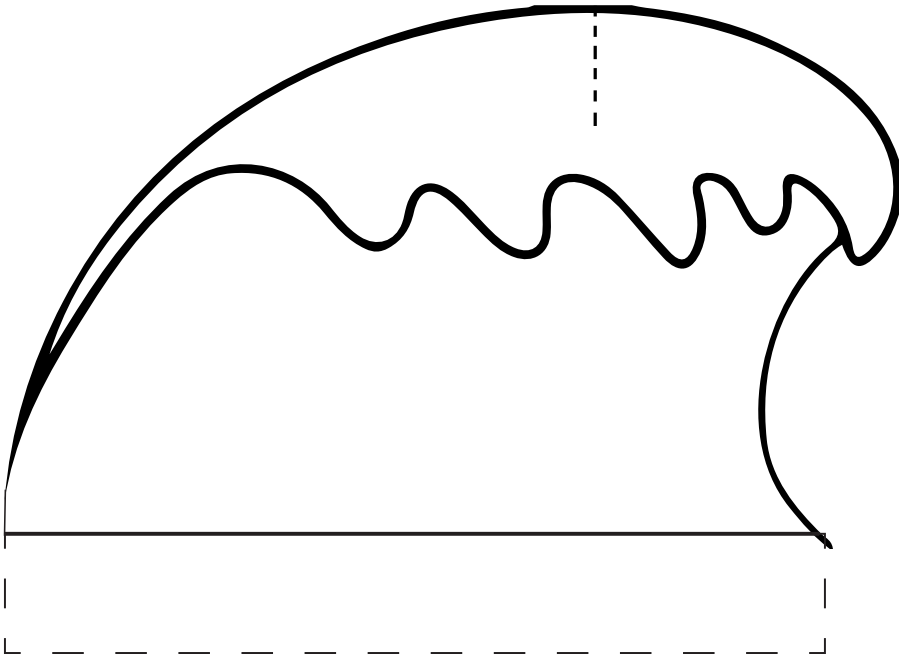

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